



IBEW Local 343
9 80th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904



OPEIU#12
AFL-CIO-CLC

Contact us at **507-282-7081** www.ibewlocal343.org

In this issue >>>
Business Manager's, Rep's, Organizer & Compliance Officer Reports
Condolences/Retirements/Disability
Return from Military Leave
Upcoming Work (white insert)
SCMNJATC Oct. 2017 Newsletter (grey insert)
2018 Calendar for Local 343 (insert)
Upcoming Dates to Remember
Summer Picnic Pictures (link to our website)

Dues Increase for 2018



IBEW LOCAL 343

**Fourth Quarter Newsletter 2017
October, November, December**

Groundwire

Business Manager...Chad Katzung



Another summer has come and gone and with that, more changes for Local 343 as well. By the time you are reading this, the local will have closed on the new training center in Mankato and renovations will have been started. I look forward to having the ability to showcase what we do, and how we train our members to the local area business in the Mankato area.

IBEW Local 343 has been asked by the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce to host Business After Hours on Feb 15, 2018. We are in the early stages of planning and we are hoping to have around 200 area business spending an evening at our training facility in Rochester. Our plan is to have instructors and apprentices working on the labs and projects like they do every day. We'll be asking our contractors to be a part of this event as well. In doing so, it gets our contractors in front of potential new customers; it gives the customer time to learn more about our program. It gives them time to understand the backgrounds and values of our program and hopefully will have a greater impact on their decisions when it comes to asking our contractors and members to do their work. The plan is to host multiple events in Rochester and Mankato as well.

As IBEW members, our commitment to excellence is core to who we are and the key to separating ourselves from the competition. Every day and on every job, our work and professionalism is on display. I would like to take the time to thank every one of you for all you do every day to put the IBEW on top in every aspect of the jobs we do. Thank you.

In Solidarity
Chad Katzung

Our Condolences:

Retired Bro. **Jordan J. Hove** – Dover, MN – Passed away 12/14/16. Jordan had been a member since January 1993

Retired Bro. **Lester "Les" D. Haber** – Sauk Rapids, MN – Passed away 6/12/17. John had been a member since January 1958

Retired Bro. **Ralph "Ron" Monson** – Rochester, MN – Passed away 8/3/17. Ralph had been a member since January 1971

Retired Bro. **John J. Bulowski** – Tucson, AZ – Passed away 8/1/17. John had been a member since January 1960

Retired Bro. **Raymond D. Schuenke** – Faribault, MN – Passed away 8/8/17. Raymond had been a member since September 1972

Retired Bro. **Stanley P. Gilman** – Owatonna, MN – Passed away 8/9/17. Stanley had been a member since March 1979

2018 UNION DUES
"A" Members \$117.00/Qtr
"BA" Members \$63.00/Qtr

Retirement/Disability:

Jerold D. Fulfs – 6/30/17
Randy L. McCain – 8/14/17
Michael D. Smith – 8/31/17
Don P. Bubendorf – 9/9/17
Michael D. Tupper – 9/29/17



3rd Qtr Newsletter helpers...L to R: Richard Sargent, Jim O'Neil Ray Goodew, Maurice Meyers, Tom Huiting,
THANK YOU!

The Summer Picnic held at Oxbow Park was a BLAST! All the fun pictures can found on our website at www.ibewlocal343.org/news

2018 Awards Banquet will be held at the St. James Hotel in Red Wing, MN on April 7, 2018 Save the Date!

Dates to Remember:
10/01/17: 4th Quarter Union Dues DUE
10/12/17: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In - LU 343 Hall, Rochester, MN
11/09/17: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In, Eagle's Club, Owatonna, MN
11/10/17: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (Veteran's Day Observed)
11/23/17: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (Thanksgiving)
11/24/17: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (Provisional Holiday – Day After Thanksgiving)
12/14/17: Union Meeting/New Member Swear-In - LU 343 Hall, Rochester, MN
12/22/17: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (Provisional Holiday – Christmas Eve)
12/25/17: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (Christmas Day)
01/01/18: LU 343 Offices CLOSED (New Year's Day)
01/01/18: 1st Quarter Union Dues DUE (\$117/qtr for A members - \$63/qtr for BA members)



9/14/17 Swear-In

TAX SEASON:
Year End
Statements will
come from *Sturm*
and *Associates* and
will be sent out
towards the end of
January 2018. This
statement will show
what you paid in for
your working dues
and any
contributions to
annuity/401k.

Rochester Rep Report >>> Steve Cardell

Hello Brothers and Sisters,
 Have to start out by thanking all of you for your hard work through the last couple months, work has been nuts! I spent a lot of time since the last newsletter working with/for a group of our members on payroll issues, I believe we are getting close to a solution, want to thank the effected members for their patience. Spent a few days in Milwaukee Wisconsin at the 6th District progress meeting, all locals are very busy but the IO is very concerned with the political issues in most states. Most important is of course the Right to Work issue our neighbors have it we can't allow it! The other thing that is going to be one of the most important decisions you can make as a working Minnesotan is the Governors race next year, everyone has the right to vote the way they choose but I want to encourage you to vote for your job not your hobbies, without a job you can't afford hobbies. The most important thing is to vote show the opposing side we are here and want to be heard. Work picture still looks good for next year, appears there is a lull in the work right now with school work wrapping up. The 3 larger projects going on now are RPU, Treasure Island and Prairie Island outage, we have been working hard with BHI to get their calls filled but need more help as of today. RPU is hard underway and manned up. Treasure Island hotel has the 1st phase completed and well manned, Hunt Electric completed other projects and were able to man it mostly internally. Going thru the resources I have several cities have Waste Water plant improvements coming. Still waiting for the additional solar projects to take off out west. Don't have an exact count on travelers in the local but be sure and thank them for helping us out when man power is needed. Remember to work as efficient and professionally as possible as that is what we have to offer our customers. Shout out to me any time with questions or concerns I will do my best to assist, I will also visit job sites when needed or wanted, let me know so I can schedule at time for you or the shop you are working for.

In solidarity,
 Steve Cardell
 Local 343 Assistant Business Manager



Organizing Department Report...

by Andy Kuisle

Since the last news-letter, the organizing efforts have included many top-down as well as bottom-up jobsite visits, lit-drops, knocks. Many nonunion workers are curious what the pay-scale is for our local, in comparison to their own, and many contractors are curious about what the Union could do for them. It is important to keep the nonunion workers and contractors informed as to what our pay scale and benefits are, so that even if they choose not to join our ranks, they still take it upon themselves to get as much compensation as they can from their employer or customer, holding as close to our industry standard wages as possible.

Several of the staff members and I have had the opportunity in the last couple months to attend 2 Organizing Conferences in Chicago. One was our 6th district only, and the other was the entire International conference with organizers from all over the US and Canada. We got many new ideas and instructions from the international how we are to be organizing over the next year. The main focus of the majority of talks was reiterating how important it is to "man the work" because if we take on jobs and fail, we will never regain the customers.

As the summer rolls in to fall, I would expect that many of you will run into nonunion apprentices and journeymen that you know or have been acquainted with before at various social functions and sporting events. I hope that if the talk turns to work, that you take the opportunity to explain that you are a proud Union member, and why you see the benefits of being a Union Electrician. In order for the nonunion to make a decision to join/not join the union, they must first be informed by real facts and not the garbage that we see or hear in the media about Unions.

Brothers and Sisters, work safe, and enjoy your Fall.

Andy Kuisle



9/26/17 Building & Trades Retiree Luncheon

Compliance Officer Report... Jim Backus

Brothers and Sisters!!

Hard to believe that summer is gone already!! It definitely has been a busy one. I want to thank those of you who have called me with information on possible violations in the area. I had successful investigations this summer from information that was given to me by members. One of these cases was made just by a text of the contractor truck being sent to me. I was able to locate where they were working and determine they were in violation.

I want each of you to remember that you can contact me at ANYTIME if you have any information or see possible violations. Obviously if I do not answer I will definitely return your call. We would rather have you contact me, or any of us, instead of risking yourself or your work at the jobsite. I can take this information and research the contractor and/or electricians. This would also give me the opportunity to conduct surveillance and document possible additional violations. Additionally it may already be a case that I am involved in and receiving the information for me to follow up with would make the case that much stronger. Sometimes "confronting" the alleged violators will create more issues for you compared to calling me and having me follow up. So please put my phone number into your contacts, 507-951-8267, so you are prepared to call or send a text with information!!

Thank you for all of the past information that I have received. If anyone has any questions, requests for information or has any information regarding violations, please contact me at jimb@ibewlocal343.org or again at 507-951-8267. Have a safe and enjoyable Fall!!

In Solidarity,
 Jim Backus



Chad Katzung, Business Manager

507-282-7081 x114

Andy Kuisle, Membership/Marketing

507-282-7081 x113

Jim Backus, Membership/Compliance

507-951-8267

Bonnie Hinkle, Pensions/Financials

507-282-7081 x112

Brooke Bly, Administrative Assistant

507-282-7081 x120

Contact Us:

Steve Cardell, Business Rep (Eastern)

507-282-7081 x115

Shane Meier, Business Rep (Western)

507-345-2133

Andy Toft, JATC / Apprentice Office

507-282-7081 x118

Colleen Marks, Membership/Referral

507-282-7081 x 222

Remember to let us know if you've moved or changed phone numbers!

Mankato Rep Report >>> by Shane Meier

First of all, I would like to thank all of the Members that showed up to the picnic this year; and I hope everyone had fun and enjoyed the great food.

Owatonna Area: The work picture is still holding steady with school remodels still going on and some apartments going up which we are trying to get our foot in the door to bid these projects as most are private projects that are typically invite-only to bid. We are still doing some electrical work at manufacturing plants around town.

Mankato Area: Bidding has slowed down a little bit in the summer, but fall there are some nice projects coming out for bid. Southern Power (AKA CALPINE) has been awarded to FPD who was also down there doing some maintenance work during their shutdown, as of writing this they are mobilizing trailers and will know more in the coming weeks. This project will be done under the NCA Agreement (New Construction Agreement) which we are still working out some of the details pertaining to this agreement with all of the skilled trade crafts that will be working on this project. The Mankato Hospital will be having an expansion coming up and we will keep you posted on manpower needs very soon. The State Hospital in St. Peter will be bidding at the end of September & will be starting after contracts are signed with all of the sub-contractors. There are some more Solar Projects that are intended to start hopefully in early October & they will be smaller sites consisting of about 3MW each and we will keep the membership posted about these projects.

Western Area: Red Pine Wind farm out in Ivanhoe is going on, and the portion that we are working on will hopefully be done in November; with the possibility of more work coming on this site. We just had a lighting retrofit project bid in Fairmont and it sounds like it went to an IBEW Contractor just waiting for a signed contract on this project.

We have been attending various conferences put on by the IBEW & our membership is continuing to grow on all fronts that we represent, Minnesota is always talked about at these conferences as we stand alone in not having right to work in our Great State & we need to keep it this way!!!!!! Again if you know of anybody wanting to learn more about the IBEW please have them contact one of us and we can inform them of what the benefits are.

In Solidarity,
 Shane Meier



RETURN FROM MILITARY LEAVE

John V. Goebel – returned 6/10/17

Marco A. Morales – returned 7/7/17

Matthew K. Morales – returned 7/7/17

Khristian M. Pike – returned 7/7/17

**WELCOME HOME GENTLEMEN!
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**